

*Pro Amt*  
*12/14/01*  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of ) PATENT APPLICATION  
)  
Inventor(s): Hugh Sharkey, et al.. )  
) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned )  
) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: Herewith )  
)  
Title: METHOD OF TREATING )  
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TISSUE )  
EMPLOYING ATTACHMENT )  
MECHANISM )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified application please amend the application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page <sup>1</sup>8, line <sup>2</sup>9, with the following rewritten paragraph: --

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/792,628, filed February 22, 2001, which claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/185,221 filed on February 25, 2000, which are fully incorporated by reference herein.

**In the Claims:**

Please delete claims 1-52.

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